

**OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS — 17 JANUARY A.D. 2016**

□ **CALENDAR** □

**17 January to 24 January A.D. 2016**

**TODAY**

**Divine Services** **8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**  
Sunday School & Bible Studies 10:00 A.M.

**THIS WEEK**

**MONDAY**

**Office of Matins** **8:10 A.M.**  
Lutheran Confessions Study 8:45 A.M.

**TUESDAY**

MOPS 9:15 A.M.  
Adult Volleyball (Gymnasium) 7:30 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Mid-Week Divine Service** **7:00 P.M.**  
Celebration Ringers Rehearsal 7:30 P.M.  
4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Midweek/Confirmation Class 7:45 P.M.  
Adult Bible Study 7:45 P.M.

**THURSDAY**

**Responsive Prayer** **8:10 A.M.**  
Women's LifeLight Bible Study 1:30 P.M.  
Cantate Choir Rehearsal 7:00 P.M.  
Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 8:30 P.M.

**SUNDAY, 24 January**

**Divine Services** **8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**  
Sunday School 10:00 A.M.  
PTL Coffee Hour 10:00 A.M.

Lutheran Schools Week begins on **Sunday, January 24**, with all students scheduled to participate in the 11 a.m. Divine Service. PTL is hosting a coffee hour for adults during the Sunday School hour to celebrate Lutheran schools. All children are asked to go directly to their Sunday School classroom, where snacks will be provided.

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:**

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW** with Pastor Thoma leading the discussion. This has proven to be a lively study full of great discussion. You are encouraged to join to see for yourself! The study group meets in the ECC entrance room, and God willing, starts right at 10:00 a.m.

**HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH** — Mr. Ted Nichols continues to lead this wonderful study of John T. Pless' delightful book on Law and Gospel. The group meets in the church conference room #105 at 10:00 a.m. Check it out!

**OUR STUDY OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK!**

Please join us on Mondays at 8:45 a.m. (just after chapel) for a casual study and discussion of the Lutheran Confessions. We meet in Pastor Thoma's office. The study concludes promptly at 9:15 a.m. Join us for chapel and then for study!

**LIFELIGHT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

LifeLight Women's Bible Study on the book of Acts. We meet at the school on Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. spending our time together in small group, prayer and discussion of the previous week's lesson completed at home. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact LifeLight's director, Carol Caswell (248-296-1140).

*"And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."*  
Acts 2:42

**LUTHER on John 2:1-11**

"To turn water into wine is to render the interpretation of the Law delightful. This is done as follows: Before the Gospel arrives everyone understands the Law as demanding our works, that we must fulfil it with works of our own. This interpretation begets either hardened, presumptuous dissemblers and hypocrites, harder than any pot of stone, or timid, restless consciences. There remains nothing but water in the pot, fear and dread of God's judgment. This is the water-interpretation, not intended for drinking, neither filling any with delight; on the contrary, there is nothing to it but washing and purification, and yet no true inner cleansing. But the Gospel explains the Law, showing that it requires more than we can render, and that it demands a person different from ourselves to fulfil it; that is, it demands Christ and brings us unto him, so that first of all by his grace we are made in true faith a different people like unto Christ, and that then we do truly good works. Thus the right interpretation and significance of the law is to lead us to the knowledge of our helplessness, to drive us from ourselves to another, namely to Christ, to seek grace and help of him."

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Join us this week for Sunday School. A reminder for families with younger students, please be sure to drop them off and pick them up in their room. The following is your child's teacher and room numbers:

**Preschool—Room 212—Sue Kelly, Alexis Ripke**  
**Grades K & 1—Room 215—Joyce Hicks & Rachel Bronsberg**  
**Grades 2 & 3—Room 219—Mia Chapman**  
**Grades 4 & 5—Room 203—Bill & Ruth Libby & Janel Gryc**  
**Grades 6 & 7—Room 205—Emily Helmreich**  
**Grade 8—Room 206—Donna Hay**

**JR. AND SR. YOUTH GROUPS UPDATE**

A lot has happened in a short period of time.

The Youth Board has met together twice this month with Pastor Thoma in order to begin retooling its efforts to serve the youth. A basic philosophy was formulated and discussed, goals were identified, and initial plans were set into motion to start reaching those goals.

Highlights include...

- knowing who our prospective youth actually are,
- having an Adult/youth leadership support structure in place to call and talk with the youth personally about events, activities, life in general,
- understanding that church attendance for our youth is paramount, and yet this typically translates to youth group participation.
- providing more opportunities to connect with the life of the congregation.

Some things to watch for...

Over the course the upcoming year, the Youth Board will spend a good deal of its time providing opportunities for building sturdy relationships among the core youth members. This effort will be mostly activity driven — that is, the efforts will consist of providing activities considered of high interest to the youth (i.e. paintball, overnight Cedar Point trips, overnight Base Camp events, and the like); the events will be provided free of charge to attendees and any invited friends. Also, more of the youth will be brought into service duties — acolytes, crucifers, lectors, ushers, altar guild, etc.

Lastly, an international Youth in Mission trip is being prepared for the summer of 2017. This, of course, depends somewhat on the international climate. Nevertheless, our eyes are once again set upon serving in Lithuania/Latvia by helping the church there to further outreach efforts to area youth and families. Serving American soldiers and their families stationed in England with VBS style camps is also a possibility. Ideas, to be sure. Wonderful opportunities for our youth, most definitely!

*More news to come!*

**CAPITAL FUND DONATION REQUEST**

**Last summer we invested \$15,000.00 in repairs for our parking lot. We replaced the catch basins in front of the Church entrance and at the rear of the parking lot, re-sealed the lot, and striped the lot. Unfortunately, last week the catch basin in front of the school entrance collapsed. This catch basin visually looked sound from the surface. However under the concrete and pavement the drain was eroded and undermined. We now have an 8' X 8' hole in front of the school that will most certainly become larger and more expensive to fix if not addressed soon. We are asking you to prayerfully consider making a donation to the Capital Fund. The purpose of the Capital Fund is for making improvements to the building and property, including but not limited to the repair of this catch basin. The current fund balance is \$220.91. We are in the process of getting estimates for this project, which is anticipated to cost approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000.**

**Week of 18 January to 24 January**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Christopher Haponek	1/19	Brian Rose	1/22
Adam Leece	1/19	Tracy Piepho	1/23
Raymond Schleif	1/20	Jason Piepho	1/23
Matt Dixon	1/21	Shane Felix	1/24
Graham Stahl	1/21	Deborah Kloeckner	1/24
Alexander Glasco	1/22	Jennifer Kolonich	1/24
Thomas Herrington	1/22		

☐ **PRAYERS** ☐

**THE SICK, THE SHUT-INS, THOSE IN ADVERSITY:** Adrian Atkinson, Raleigh Bahr, Ingeborg Bailey, Jack & Barbara Bain, Jack Bartenbaker, Wendell Bergren, Christopher Bolton, Susan Brandt, Wendell Bergren, Maryann Brueggeman, Sylvia Cole, Carole Doll, Jim Faught, Carol Ford, Bill Kirkpatrick, Landon Martens, Kayla Marcum, Charles McCloskey, Bob Minock, Leah Nelson, Cindy Pushman, Josephina Renard, Rev. William Sabol, The Shirk family, Donald Stoll, Donna Talsma, Randi Talsma, Edwin Thoma, Jennifer Thoma, Monica Tkac, Joan Thompson, Susan Vogt, Ed Willer, Rev. John Wurst, Frances Wyckoff, and Randy Zeilinger.

**MILITARY:** Ramone Baca, Alexander Baloh, Drew Barber, Brandy Bates, Robert Bell, Corry Brennan, Tom Buller, Brian Chapman, Mark Ciero, Jonathan Cross, Kenneth Eyer, Darrel Fenbert Jr., Drew Helmreich, Randy Horst, Chad Libby, Neil Lipon, Richard McManamon, Nick Morley, Jonathan Mrozek, Matthew Niendorf, Chris Robosky, Steve Roeske, Samantha Russell, Jake Simkins, Albie Therrien, and Alex Young.

**MISSIONARIES:** Rev. Charles Ferry and family.

**Calling all couples!** A trial run for a small group Bible study has been conducted, and the results are in: Success! We would like to expand and start more small groups, consisting of 4-5 couples each, meeting once a month for fellowship and study. Meeting times and subject texts are to be decided by the individual groups, and texts are to be approved by Pastor Thoma. Re-start "date night," get support on parenting, marriage, and bringing God back to the center of it all! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your brothers and sisters in Christ! Contact Rachel Bronsberg for more information. (517)410-3121 rbronsberg@gmail.com

**IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE CONGREGATION EMAIL LIST, YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON A LOT OF HELPFUL INFORMATION!!!** To get on the list, just send an email to [pastorthoma@oursaviorhartland.org](mailto:pastorthoma@oursaviorhartland.org).

**OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

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The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Reverend Christopher I. Thoma, Pastor

Reverend Dr. Jakob K. Heckert, Assistant Pastor

Reverend Dr. Frank J. Pies, Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Jonathan Swett, Kantor

Mrs. Andrea Johnson, School Principal

**ATTENDANCE in HOLY WORSHIP:** Christ declares that Christians are made by baptizing and teaching, that is, Word and Sacrament (Matthew 28:19). The Apostle John declares that this same Lord makes His presence among His believers and strengthens them in the faith through the means of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Word of the Gospel, pronounced, read, preached, and taught (1 John 5:6-12).

Jesus, the Light of the World (John 8:12) declares that by His Gospel given through Word and Sacrament, Christians become lights in the world around them (Matthew 5:16). History proves that attendance numbers do not change by programs or gimmicks. Such things do not truly introduce people to Jesus. By way of the Gospel, His Christians do! The Lord sends His Gospel invitation into all nations through you, His church. *IN THE NEW YEAR*, invite your friends and family to hear the Gospel so that they may believe in Christ as you do and be joined with the Savior for eternal life!

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 — 40'S Plus KOINONIA BIBLE STUDY and POT LUCK. (Changed to the 5th Sunday for this month)** Please join us, single and married adults for fellowship, food and Bible Study in the school cafeteria. Bring a friend, a dish to share, and a beverage.

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK WILL BE CELEBRATED AT OUR SAVIOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 - FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016.** The theme for the week is "Life Together in Christ" based on 1 Corinthians 1:9. Many fun and educational activities are planned for the week. Here are some things that are being planned for that week.

The week begins on **Sunday, January 24**, with all students scheduled to participate in the 11 a.m. Divine Service and PTL hosting a coffee hour between services to celebrate Lutheran schools and Christian education. Invite friends and relatives to join us on this special Sunday.

We will participate in the online mission trip to Guatemala hosted by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Each day there will be an online video from Guatemala to help students learn about the country and the mission work that is happening there. All of our chapel offerings for December through the end of February will support the work being done to share the Gospel with the people of Guatemala.

The final event of the week will be the Cranbrook Family Science Night on **Friday evening, January 29**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Cranbrook Institute will bring their portable planetarium and fourteen additional hands-on science activities for children of all ages to experience. It will be a fun-filled, educational evening for everyone. PTL is able to sponsor this special event thanks to the success of the Fall Fun Run. Mark your calendars, plan to attend, and invite family and friends to join us that evening.

Volunteers are needed to assist at the fourteen hands-on activities. Please consider giving an hour of your time to make this a fun and educational experience for everyone. You will be given the instructions necessary to supervise your activity. They are pretty easy and even a lot of fun. Dads have enjoyed helping with this in the past.